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P/3541-4

#9

W. Langer
4/16/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
HASHIMOTO, H.

New York, New York

Date: April 7, 2003

Serial No.: 09/519,031

Group Art Unit: 2711

Filed: March 3, 2000

Examiner: N/A

For: IMAGING DEVICE AND CONTROL METHOD THEREOF

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

APR 15 2003

Technology Center 2600

SUBMISSION

Sir:

Submitted herewith is a copy of art together with a form listing the same for the convenience of the Examiner.

I hereby certify that the Japanese Publications listed on the attached art listing form were cited in a Japanese Office Action issued in a related application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Submission (37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)).

A copy of the Japanese Office Action and an English-language translation are also attached. English equivalents or translations of the Japanese references were not available at the time of this submission.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 7, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

Max Moskowitz

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

April 7, 2003

Date of Signature

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(Translation)

Mailed: January 7, 2003

NOTIFICATION OF REASONS FOR REJECTION

Patent Application No.: 2000-053671

Examiner's Notice Date: December 20, 2002

Examiner: N. Sakai

This application is rejected on the grounds stated below. Any opinion about the rejection must be filed within 60 DAYS of the mailing date hereof.

REASON

The invention is unpatentable under Section 29 (2) of the Patent Law, as being such that the invention could easily have been made by a person with ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains, on the basis of the invention described in the following publications distributed in Japan or a foreign country prior to this application.

REMARKS

References Cited:

1. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 10-136244
2. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 05-316432
3. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 05-007333

Re claims 1-6

References 1-3 are applicable.

Refer to References 1-3 with respect to the following point: Photoelectric transducers are divided into a plurality of photoelectric transducer groups, each group comprising a combination of a plurality of lines disposed

at regular intervals. Photoelectric transducers belonging to the same photoelectric transducer group or different photoelectric transducer groups start storing charge at the same time or at different times. Based on image signals read out, a camera lens is driven in the optical axis direction to focus.

Prior Art Search Report

Searched Field: IPC 7th ed. H04N5/222-5/257
DB Name

Prior-Art Document(s):

The result of this prior art search does not constitute the reasons for rejection.